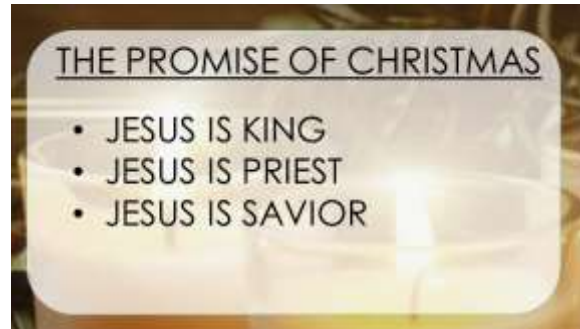


## The Promise of Christmas

### December 12, 2021 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



#### Questions:

- Icebreaker question: If you saw the kids' Christmas musical, what did you enjoy most?
- The musical and the sermon had the title, The Promise of Christmas. What do you remember about each of the main points? What stood out to you or impacted you?
- Read Isaiah 7:1-2 and Isaiah 7:10-14.
  - Why were King Ahaz and the people afraid? What was their root problem?
  - How did the Lord try to encourage them?
  - If God came to you and said you could ask for a sign –any sign, even a sign as “deep as Sheol or as high as heaven,” what do you think you would ask for?
  - Why did Ahaz say he did not want to ask for a sign?
  - Do you see any problem with his reasoning? What about it made Isaiah angry?
  - Who did Isaiah broaden his response to in v. 13? Why do you think he did this?
  - What did God promise to do anyway in v. 14? (Note: This prophecy may have had an initial fulfillment in Isaiah's day, but Biblical prophecy often has more than one fulfillment. An earlier fulfillment serves as a sign of a greater fulfillment to come).
  - What does Immanuel mean? (see Matthew 1:21-23)
  - How can this name of the Lord encourage you personally?
- Read Isaiah 11:1-5
  - What is meant by “the stump of Jesse”? (see 1 Chronicles 29:26 and Isaiah 6:9-13). What picture does this point of the situation before Christ came?
  - In what way was the Messiah to come from this stump? (see Luke 1:26-27, Luke 1:31-32, Revelation 5:5 and Revelation 22:16)
  - According to this passage, what would be the values of the Messiah's kingdom?
  - Where would the Messiah's power come from? (see v. 2 and Luke 4:14)
  - How can we as Christians better live out these values in honor of our King?
- Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray that we would all be in awe of Christ and be empowered to live out the values of his kingdom.